



News Release

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Century Honors Outstanding Students

Century College honored 36 of its top students at the annual Outstanding Student ceremony on April 30.

Four student life awards also were given to student club members.

This year, the Quant family of Shoreview had two students who were honored as Outstanding Students – Josiah in Computer Science and Jenna in Physical Education. Another son, Jacob Quant, graduated from Century and is now working as an engineer after graduating from the University of Minnesota. Fred Quant, the father, graduated from Century when it was Lakewood Community College in 1979. Debbie Quant has homeschooled all four of her children and three of them attended Century for their junior and senior years of high school.

Each Outstanding Student gave some remarks after accepting the award, and a faculty member from the department or program also spoke. Student Michael Ligday, an Oakdale resident in the Engineering CAD Technology program, expressed a sentiment repeated by many: people should come to Century instead of

larger institutions because of the quality of the faculty and the personal attention given to students by the faculty and staff. “There is something special about this place,” said Ligday.

Megan Matta of Shoreview, the chemistry Outstanding Student, commented that Century’s chemistry program is “awesome. The professors make it so fun and entertaining. It is fun, but hard. We all pull each other through.”

Many of the students achieved their success while balancing challenging work and family lives. Jeremy VanLaningham of Circle Pines, the outstanding nursing student, is a military veteran who has served in Iraq. While attending college, he worked at the Veterans Hospital and also helped with his two young children. Pamela Sebesta of Maplewood, the outstanding Information and Telecommunications Technology student, energized the ITT student club, bringing in monthly speakers and hosting video game parties. She thanked her husband and sons for pitching in at home so that she could achieve her college success. Lieu Trinh of Brooklyn Park, the outstanding English for Speakers of Other Languages student, rode four buses to Century every day to work on her English skills. Lisa Fleming of Forest Lake achieved her success in biology though one of her three children has a rare chromosomal disorder.

Some students attended Century after earning advanced degrees at other institutions. Stephen Kelly of St. Paul, the outstanding student in marketing, earned a master’s degree in applied anthropology before coming to Century. While at Century, he built a website for the marketing program so students can stay connected after they graduate.

Some outstanding students returned to Century to change careers or finish what they started years ago. Robert McAllister of Shoreview, the outstanding horticulture student, started at Century when it was Lakewood Community College. “They can teach old dogs new tricks,” he said. Susan Mueller of Falcon Heights, the outstanding music student, said it has taken over 30 years to finish her music degree. “I had a blast,” she said.

After four years in the Air Force, Christopher Bengston of Blaine, the outstanding history student, said history is the subject he can never get tired of. He plans to transfer to the University of Minnesota. Arthur Prokott of Oakdale, the outstanding Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning student, said when his 27-year career as a sheet metal worker ended, it worked out well to go back to school in a related field.

The 2009-2010 Outstanding Students are: Art - Jennifer Anderson of St. Paul, Biology – Lisa Fleming of Forest Lake, Chemistry – Megan Matta of Shoreview, Computer Forensic – Alexander Humble of Blaine, Computer Science – Josiah Quant of Shoreview, Cosmetology – Rebecca Barger of St. Paul, Criminal Justice – James Roush of Stillwater, Dental Assisting – Ashley Riedesel of Somerset, Wis., Dental Hygiene – Ashley Peterson of Harris, Education – Rolf Tollefson of Northfield, Emergency Medical Services – Jeffrey Ilstrup, Engineering CAD Technology – Michael Ligday of Oakdale, English – Elisabeth Samson-Lee of Stillwater, English for Speakers of Other Languages – Lieu Trinh of Brooklyn Park, Facilities System Technology – Christopher Jones of Cottage Grove.

Geography – Alice Metz of White Bear Lake, Health – Ashley Barthelmey, Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning – Arthur Prokott of Oakdale, History – Christopher Bengtson of Blaine, Horticulture – Robert McAllister of Shoreview, Information and Telecommunications Technology – Pamela Sebesta of Maplewood, Interior Design – Kelly Jensen of Minneapolis, Kitchen and Bath Design – Kathy Lange, Marketing – Stephen Kelly of St. Paul, Mathematics – William Ward of New Brighton, Medical Assistant – Amy Barnett of Vadnais Heights, Music – Susan Mueller of Falcon Heights, Nursing – Jeremy VanLaningham of Circle Pines, Office Technology – Andrea Sterling of Maplewood, Physical Education – Jenna Quant of Shoreview, Public Safety – Jeffrey Miller, Radiologic Technology – Beau Zangs, Sports Facility – Brandon Chapman of Shoreview, Theater – Paige Goodman of Somerset, Wis., Women and Gender Studies – Elaine Burns of Minneapolis.



Photo: Outstanding Student Group.